

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 2008**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Drew Satariano, President, at 9:00 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center Library. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Drew Satariano, President
Brett Waterfield, Vice President
Simon George
Harry Saltzgaver
Sarah Sangmeister

Absent: Albert Guerra

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
J.C. Squires, Manager of Business Operations
Dennis Eschen, Manager of Planning and Development
Ramon Arevalo, Acting Manager of Maintenance Operations
Lt. Dan Pratt, Park Rangers
Bill Greco, Supervising Park Ranger
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: Lindsay Magnall, CSULB Recreation and Leisure Major
John Moses, Plaza Little League Inc.
Daniel Montoya, Youth Soccer
Diane Wiley, Partners of Parks

It was moved by Commissioner George and seconded by Commissioner Saltzgaver to excuse the absence of Commissioner Albert Guerra. The motion carried unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 16, 2008

It was moved by Vice President Waterfield and seconded by Commissioner Saltzgaver to approve the October 16, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#08-1101

Recommendation to authorize the Director or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Vice President Waterfield to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

#08-1102

Recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute all documents necessary to issue a permit to Future Baseball Starts for the provision and operation of winter baseball camps from November 28 through December 31, 2008, in City of Long Beach parks.

Mr. Squires stated that the company left a voice message withdrawing their request and they would run their camps in another city.

#08-1103

Recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench in Bluff Park, in honor of Gisela (Gale) Brown.

Commissioner Saltzgaver mentioned that this is another memorial bench by the Lone Sailor Memorial and asked if there is room for any more?

Mr. Hester said that there is a fair amount of space in this area and there is room for many more.

Ms. Wiley mentioned that the location of the bench may change slightly with the change of the memorial bricks, but that would be no problem.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

#08-1104

Recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute a permit for the operation of a picnic service concession with Los Angeles Partyworks, Inc., for a term of one year expiring on November 19, 2009, with options for renewal, subject to the discretion of the Director.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Satariano, Chair

President Satariano stated that they met and discussed the agenda and discussed holding another Commission Retreat in January, since last year's retreat was so productive. He said that it looked like a Friday afternoon, from about 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m., would work for everyone. They discussed dates and venues and came up with a potential date of January 9, and a tentative location of Keesal, Young and Logan.

Commissioner Saltzgaver mentioned the California Association of Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members Retreat on January 24, and thought that the Commission Retreat should be held before that.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
President Satariano, Chair

President Satariano said that the Committee did not meet but the financial statement was included in the packet.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner Saltzgaver, Chair

Commissioner Saltzgaver stated that the Committee met this morning. He said that the City Council agenda item regarding park ranger staffing was postponed for two weeks. The proposal was to pull back the park rangers to El Dorado in order to keep two jobs, to move two of the park rangers to Special Events, and to cut a series of programs such as Junior Band and support for the parades. He asked how the Department is paying for the two park rangers currently?

Mr. Hester responded that the Department is absorbing the cost until a decision is made.

Commissioner Saltzgaver stated that they discussed the Shakeout earthquake drill and brought up that the Department has 12 designated shelters.

Mr. Greco stated that the Kids Fishing Derby is going to be held at El Dorado Park this Saturday. The Dan Hernandez Youth Foundation is co-sponsoring the event and barbecuing hotdogs for the kids. He invited the Commissioners to attend.

Mr. Eschen said that new park projects would be brought before the park rangers for their review and input.

D. MARKETING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

President Satariano stated that since Commissioner Guerra is absent, they would defer the committee report to next month.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
Vice President Waterfield, Chair

Vice President Waterfield stated that the Committee did not meet.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
Commissioner Sangmeister, Chair

President Satariano stated that he would like this committee to go into abeyance so those committee members could be more effective in other areas. The Commission is displeased with the interface between the School District and this subcommittee at our level.

Commissioner Saltzgaver stated that he was in favor of that.

Mr. Squires mentioned that the agreement is currently with the School District and with their current budget issues, has been put on the shelf. The School District and the Department are still using each other's fields.

President Satariano requested that Mr. Eschen update his list of schools that could be used for joint use with the Department and then schedule a meeting with the Superintendent.

Mr. Hester said that he would pull the previous letter from the Commission to the Superintendent and reiterate those points.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Vice President Waterfield to suspend the City Schools/Joint Committee at this time with direction to the Executive Committee to continue to work towards restructuring the relationship between the Department and the School District. The motion carried unanimously.

President Satariano said that he would serve on the Park Safety Committee and that he would get input from the Commissioners to revise committee assignments.

G. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

President Satariano said that Commissioner Guerra is absent, but the committee did meet, they meet monthly. They are working on policies for barbecues in parks and on public computer usage in park facilities.

V. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION**

A. Recommendation to receive and file the Director's Monthly Highlights Report for October 2008.

President Satariano asked for any comments or questions on the monthly report.

Commissioner George said that he had a question on page 7, about the 20th Annual Long Beach Senior Tournament. He asked if that was happening every year?

Mr. Hester responded yes.

Commissioner George asked if staff knew that Cathy Jacobson-Guzy was going to run the Seal Beach Tennis Center?

Mr. Hester responded yes. She talked to him ahead of time. There is no conflict with her doing this.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. **CORRESPONDENCE**

President Satariano said that they received no correspondence.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. PARTNERS OF PARKS REPORT – DIANE WILEY

Ms. Wiley said that Partners of Parks (POP) has done their first donor mailing that is going to 5,700 households in the zip code 90815, based on a list that was provided by the individuals who have donated in the last couple of years. They anticipate a seven to ten percent response

rate. She distributed POP brochures and encouraged the Commissioners to hand those out to the public.

Ms. Wiley mentioned that every two weeks the Long Beach Business Journal does a profile on a non-profit organization in Long Beach and they are doing a profile on POP. Ms. Wiley stated that POP is also purchasing \$1,500 worth of fish for the Kids Fishing Derby.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked what POP is doing with the money from the shipping company donated for the Universally Accessible Playgrounds and keeping them in the loop?

Ms. Wiley said that she is given free tickets to Kings and Ducks games and she offers those to the company. At this moment, that money is sitting in the account raising interest. On Sunday, March 15, a progressive dinner party fundraiser will be held to benefit POP. She said that POP would also be doing a kickoff for Universally Accessible Playgrounds at that event.

Commissioner Saltzgaver suggested that POP show that something is being done with that project.

Mr. Hester stated that staff needs to figure how to break down the Universally Accessible Playground project into smaller pieces to get it started.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approve this report for inclusion by the Planning Commission in the Annual Implementation Report for the Open Space and Recreation Element.

Mr. Eschen said that this is the fifth update since the adoption of the Open Space and Recreation Element. One acre of additional, completed park space was gained this year and an overall 45 acres has been gained in the last five years. The number of parks is falling behind the population and we are getting further away from the goal of having 8 acres per 1,000 residents. However, in the next year or so there will be a number of projects under development. He said that included in the packet is a list of properties purchased but not developed yet and we are making much better progress there.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked about the Sports Park project, which is still stated as part of the Open Space Element. He is uncomfortable having that in the report since the City is not actively pursuing development.

Mr. Hester responded that the Department is pursuing development. Construction documents are 55 percent complete. This is an annual report and no change has been made that has been approved by the City Council. The Sports Park project is out there and the Parks and Recreation Commission will be involved in the future.

President Satariano said that perhaps the Open Space and Recreation Element should be discussed in the Commission Retreat.

Mr. Eschen said that this report goes to the Planning Commission and then the Planning Commission reports on a couple of additional items and then includes this report.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if there was a way to provide a list of park acreage per district?

Mr. Hester said that could be done. The City Manager has asked Geoff Hall to put together a report on how much money was spent for new parks over the last few years. He also commended Mr. Eschen for all the work put into this report.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Los Cerritos Project

Mr. Hester said that this is for the Commission's information. The City Council laid this item over for three weeks to December 9. There was conversation about holding another closed session.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that this is a very complex deal and has a lot of moving parts. How this works was not explained at all at the City Council meeting. There are outside interests to clean up the land, which is the Port.

Mr. Hester said that Councilwoman Reyes Uranga asked specifically for the City Manager to look at four or five other options related to development on the west side. One of those is 10 or 12 acres identified off the 710 Freeway that has not been developed. This could be developed for soccer fields.

Mr. Eschen said that he has requested a report on what still could be placed in the remaining 18 acres at the Sports Park site.

IX. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

President Satariano asked for comments from the audience.

Mr. John Moses said that he is the Vice President of Plaza Little League and he is concerned about recent issues. He said that he has some background in business and athletics. He is an elected official and represents several hundred families. They have upgraded their facility, painted and remodeled their snack shack, the bathrooms, put in new grass and new dirt and new bullpens. At this point they are not being recognized as Plaza Little League because they are trying to bring change to a dying program. They decided to charter with the Cal Ripken League. They have a contract with the City until 2011 for the fields, but they are not being recognized by the City Attorney's Office. This concerns him. They are closing down their winter program and usually start going into field maintenance. The old members of the little league program have decided they want to start a new organization as of October and have put together a new organization and want to compete for the fields. He is concerned that what they want to do what is right for the people. This weekend he has seen fighting over the fields in front of the kids and he is ashamed of that. A decision needs to be made soon as to when they will be recognized so this activity can be stopped.

Vice President Waterfield asked the name of the new organization?

Mr. Moses responded that they call themselves Long Beach Plaza Little League Team. Unfortunately, they are telling everyone that they are the ones that have been there forever. He said that his group is signing up numbers ahead of time to get their general membership early. He has received several hundred applications already.

Mr. Hester thanked Mr. Moses for coming. He said that last year, the transition from Los Altos Little League to Cal Ripken was made smoothly and there was no conflict. The same was happening with the Plaza Little League and they thought everything was going smoothly. A decision was made by the old Plaza group to take over, who did not want this change to happen for a number of reasons. A lot of it has to do with their charter. The present board has been moving forward with the change and operated the facility last year. The current policy from the Commission's standpoint is that the Department recognizes the group that has been at that particular facility as the first priority. They do their registration and justify their numbers and continue moving on with their operation.

Mr. Hester said that the City Attorney's Office is doing research and has to make a decision. The City Attorney has said that the current group is to turn the keys in to the Department while the decision is being made. The Department will probably try and bring the presidents of the two groups together with the City Attorney's office right after Thanksgiving. The Department is involved because we are issuing permits. Because of the lighting permit fee changes as of the first of January, the Department is going to pull all permits back and reissue the permits with the new lighting fees. Those will come back to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval. The Department believes the City Attorney has all the information, but he has to make a decision.

Mr. Moses said that a member of the group who was voted out is a member of the City Attorney's Office as well. The agreement with the City is with Long Beach Plaza, Inc., who he represents. They charter with Little League or Cal Ripken. They have several assets at the field and asked if they could leave those things there or would have to take them out.

Mr. Hester said that they could leave the assets there temporarily.

President Satariano said that Mr. Moses' appearance at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was well positioned. He is comfortable that Department staff will handle the situation.

Mr. Squires said that the attorney has a clear view of the entities and he should be able to resolve the issue quickly. The attorney that is looking at this does not have a family, so he is not a part of this.

Mr. Daniel Montoya said that he is a resident of Long Beach. He is in commercial real estate and has quite a few clients who are heavily involved in soccer. He said he wanted to come in and see what was going on. In commercial real estate they are able to identify a lot of properties that might be available for development for soccer. There is no soccer field in Long Beach with lights. He is very interested in what the City is already working on as far as the projects. He has a couple of people who are financially looking to participate in the development of different facilities and fields, specifically soccer. He was disappointed that the Sports Park was being swapped out. He would like to talk to staff about what he can do.

Mr. Hester asked that he contact him to discuss his ideas.

B. STAFF

President Satariano asked for comments from the staff.

Mr. Hester distributed the City of Long Beach Gas and Oil Properties calendars to the Commissioners. He said that most of the pictures are of park sites. He also distributed a laminated park map and a *Facts at a Glance* brochure to help in finding phone numbers.

Mr. Arevalo said he wanted to clarify the memorial bench requests for Bluff Park. Staff is swapping the original benches for the new memorial benches. There are still six original benches left to be replaced.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Satariano asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Vice President Waterfield said that 40 CSULB students helped hold a Halloween Carnival at Silverado Park with booths and jumpers.

X. **NEXT MEETING**

President Satariano stated that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, December 18, 2008, at the El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center Library, 2800 Studebaker Road, Long Beach.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Satariano adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Assistant to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine